

REMARKS

This is in response to the outstanding Non-Final Office Action dated June 10, 2009. Claims 1, 2, 12, and 13 have been amended. Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled. Claims 1–8 and 11–23 are currently pending in this application. No new matter is added.

Allowed Claims

Applicants thank Examiner Hale for the allowance of claims 11, 14, 17, 20 and 23.

Claim Objections

Claims 7–10, 12, 13 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants thank Examiner Hale for indicating that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 to include the subject matters of claims 9 and 10, respectively. No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1–6, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,109,546 to Dicker (“*Dicker*”).

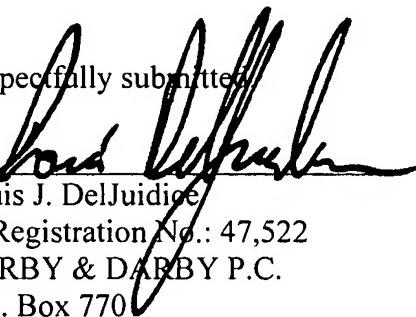
Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 to include the subject matter of claims 9 and 10 respectively. Applicants agree with the Examiner’s position that *Dicker* does not disclose the recited configurations of the supplementary tightening portions. Thus, *Dicker* does not disclose the limitations as recited in claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, because the prior art does not disclose each and every limitation of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1 and 2, as well as those claims which depend therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that the prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

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Respectfully submitted,

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